

REMARKS

With the cancellation of claims 8 and 14, claims 7, 9 to 13, and 15 to 18 are now pending, since claims 1 to 6 were previously canceled. It is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the Information Disclosure Statements, PTO-1449 papers, and cited references filed February 13, 2008.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 8 to 12 and 14 to 18 include allowable subject matter. In this regard, the Examiner will note that claims 7 (from which claims 9 to 12 ultimately depend) and 13 (from which claims 15 to 18 ultimately depend) have been amended herein without prejudice to incorporate subject matter of, respectively, canceled claims 8 and 14, so that claims 7, 9 to 13, and 15 to 18 are in condition for immediate allowance and thereby rendering moot the present claim rejections.

Accordingly, all of pending claims 7, 9 to 13, and 15 to 18 are allowable.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as previously presented in a continuation patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of presently pending claims 7, 9 to 13, and 15 to 18 are allowable. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: October 17, 2008

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